

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01465 041132Z

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 OES-06 IGA-02

L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3515

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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STATE PASS AID

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID LE US

SUBJ: PL-480 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 1206

1. AGATT PITCHER MET WITH PORT SILO MANAGER JEAN TOUMA MARCH 28 AND DISCUSSED QUESTION OF BULK WHEAT UNLOADING (PER PARA 3 REFTTEL.) TWO OF THREE SUCTION PIPES ON ONE UNLOADER ARE OPERATING AND THE THIRD PIPE IS BEING REPAIRED AND WILL BE FIXED BY END OF APRIL. WHEAT IS BEING UNLOADED INTO TRUCKS BY PIPE AND MOVED FROM SHIPSIDE TO SILO WHERE IT IS DUMPED. PRESENT THEORETICAL UNLOADING CAPACITY OF 200 TONS WILL BE INCREASED TO 300 TONS WHEN THIRD PIPE REPAIRED. EFFECTIVE RATE OF OPERATION IS ABOUT 70 PER CENT.

2. ONCE THIRD PIPE IS FUNCTIONING, THE TRUCK-RECEIVING DUMP BECOMES THE LIMITING FACTOR. ITS CAPACITY IS ONLY 300 TONS PER HOUR. THE SILOS NOW HAVE ABOUT 20,000 TONS OF WHEAT, 9,000 TONS OF SOYBEANS AND 1,000

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01465 041132Z

TONS OF SORGHUM IN STORAGE. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS THEORETICALLY ANOTHER 75,000 TONS OF CAPACITY IN THE SILOS BUT THERE IS AT PRESENT NO INTEREST IN ORDERING MORE WHEAT THAN HAS ALREADY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THIS FY. DUE TO LARGE SUPPLIES OF FLOUR IN COUNTRY, FLOUR MILLS ARE NOT OPERATING, OR ONLY MILLING SPECIALITY FLOURS. MOST FLOUR MILLS HAVE WHEAT STOCKS, SO INCOMING WHEAT

DURING APRIL WILL INCREASE STOCKS AS VERY LITTLE
DRAWDOWN EXPECTED UNTIL ALL FLOUR IS UTILIZED, WHICH WILL TAKE
AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BASED ON IN-COUNTRY STOCKS AND
SHIPMENTS ALREADY CONFIRMED.

3. THERE ARE ALREADY 16 PORTABLE PNEUMATIC CONVEYORS
"VACUVATORS" AT BEIRUT PORT. ALTHOUGH NONE OWNED BY
PORT SILO AUTHORITY, THEY COULD BE USED IF EXISTING
UNLOADING EQUIPMENT WERE TO FAIL. MR. TOUMA EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN SILO AUTHORITY ACQUIRING TWO TO FOUR NEW
"VACUVATORS" WITH TELESCOPIC BOOMS WITH A CONVEYING
CAPACITY OF 70 TONS (MODEL 3083) AS STANDBY RPT STANDBY
EQUIPMENT.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN VIEW OF INFORMATION IN
PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE AND FURTHER CONTACTS WITH GOL
OFFICIALS, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOL WILL NOT ACCEPT AND
CANNOT HANDLE MORE THAN 50,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND
5,000 TONS OF RICE UNDER PL-480 THIS FY. WE THEREFORE PLAN TO
PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATION OF PL-480, TITLE I AGREEMENT
ON THIS BASIS. PARKER

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Message Attributes

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